



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Funding Highlights:

- The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and evidence-based information about America's natural resources and hazards, supports safe and responsible development of Federal energy resources, fosters rural prosperity, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and U.S.-affiliated island communities to help them prosper.
- The 2021 Budget request for DOI prioritizes wildland fire risk mitigation, energy development programs, and infrastructure improvements on public lands. The Budget eliminates funding for unnecessary or duplicative programs while reducing funds below the 2020 enacted level for lower priority activities, including land acquisition and various grant programs.
- The Budget proposes to eliminate line-item land acquisition projects funding, saving taxpayers \$132 million relative to the 2020 enacted level. Eliminating land acquisition projects funding would allow DOI to focus resources on visitor services and facility repairs in existing national parks, refuges, and public lands, which already encompass nearly 500 million acres.
- The 2021 Budget requests \$12.7 billion for DOI, a \$2.5 billion or 16-percent decrease from the 2020 enacted level, including changes in mandatory programs.

The President's 2021 Budget:

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage, oversees development of energy and mineral resources on Federal lands and waters, provides scientific and other information about the Nation's natural resources, supervises water infrastructure, honors trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and fulfills commitments to Insular areas. The 2021 Budget reflects the Administration's strong commitment to promoting economic security and energy dominance by developing domestic energy resources. These efforts invest in America's future and prioritize the safety and security of all Americans by reducing U.S. dependency on foreign nations and increasing America's position as an energy exporter.

Each year, hundreds of millions of Americans pursue recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing in U.S. national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands. Visitors to public lands spend money locally that supports economic prosperity within these local communities. Also, through the purchases of hunting and fishing licenses and equipment,

sportsmen and women have generated billions of dollars that are invested back into wildlife and habitat conservation efforts. To better serve these visitors, the Budget supports expanded public access to lands and waters administered by DOI. The Budget also invests in increased access to encourage sporting enthusiasts, conservationists, veterans, minorities, and other underserved communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities to partake in the great outdoors.

"The golden era of American energy is now underway."

President Donald J. Trump
May 14, 2019

Strengthens America's Energy Security. The Budget prioritizes funding for DOI programs that support the safe and responsible development of energy on public lands and offshore waters. Federal offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico continues to set records, averaging 1.8 million barrels per day in 2018. Onshore, the Administration is working aggressively to implement congressional direction to lease land for oil and gas in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Department will continue to make new areas available for all forms of energy

development—both onshore and offshore—and will prioritize project permitting consistent with industry demand. The Budget also maintains funding for scientific research and data collection by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to inform responsible energy and mineral development and minimize the environmental impacts of these activities. Combined with administrative reforms to streamline permitting processes, these efforts would provide industry with access to the energy resources America needs, while ensuring that taxpayers receive a fair return from the development of these public resources.

Supports Active Forest Management to Reduce Wildfire Risk. The Administration remains unequivocal about the need to accelerate active forest management on Federal lands. The Budget reflects this critical priority by requesting \$228 million for DOI's hazardous fuels mitigation work and \$177 million for DOI timber programs. Consistent with the objectives and targets under the President's Executive Order 13855, "Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk," to promote active forest management, DOI will utilize the full range of available and appropriate forest management tools, including prescribed burns and mechanical thinning to mitigate fuel loads in order to lessen the risk of fire and maintain air quality. Together, these efforts help ensure that Federal lands are healthy and productive, and that rural communities are more resilient to the destructive impacts of wildfire. The Budget responsibly funds wildfire suppression costs, including cap adjustment resources made available to DOI and the Forest Service for 2021.

Supports Law Enforcement Capacity on Public and Trust Lands. DOI serves as the steward of nearly 500 million acres of public lands and more than 56 million acres of tribal trust lands. The Budget keeps visitors and natural resources safe on the Nation's public lands, and promotes safe tribal communities on trust lands by supporting 191 tribal law enforcement programs and special initiatives to confront the opioid crisis and violence in Indian Country. The Budget supports strong and secure borders, with DOI law enforcement efforts focused on the roughly 12 million acres of DOI lands along the United States-Mexico border. The Budget also invests in the United States Park Police, who safeguard lives and protect America's national treasures. In addition, the Budget invests in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) law enforcement efforts to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, including at the U.S. border and ports of entry, in support of the President's Executive Order 13773, "Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking."

Invests in Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The buildings, trails, roads, water systems, and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools the departments manage are deteriorating, evidenced by a deferred maintenance backlog that exceeds \$18 billion. To address this backlog, the Budget proposes a \$6.5 billion Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to improve and repair BIE schools as well as facilities in national parks and forests, in wildlife refuges, and on other public lands. The Fund would be supported by the deposit of 50 percent of the proceeds received from Federal offshore and onshore energy leases over the 2021-2025 period, subject to an annual limit of \$1.3 billion. These investments would improve some of America's most visited parks and public lands that support a multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy.

Preserves National Park Service Assets for Future Generations. The National Park Service (NPS) has a long history of preserving and protecting the natural and cultural sites that tell America's story. To continue this tradition and ensure preservation of national parks for generations to come, the Budget provides \$314 million to help address NPS's deferred maintenance backlog. Along with the mandatory funding provided by the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, this funding would help NPS maintain and preserve America's highest priority assets.

Prioritizes Land Management Operations of the NPS, FWS, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). To protect and conserve America's public lands, the Budget provides \$5 billion for land management operations. These resources would ensure access to recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and camping, and provide safe experiences for visitors. The Budget also advances efforts to streamline operations and reduce unnecessary spending, and proposes substantial resources to address the unsustainable growth rate and associated outyear costs of wild horse and burro herds on Federal lands.

Invests in Essential Science Programs. The Budget invests in USGS science related to natural hazards; water, energy, minerals, and other natural resources; and the health of America's ecosystems and environment. The Budget supports development of the Landsat 9 ground system, as well as research and data collection to inform sustainable energy and mineral development, responsible resource management, and natural hazard risk reduction.

Supports Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination. In recognition of its trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, the Budget continues to prioritize funding for core operations that foster tribal sovereignty, sustain tribal governments, and support the effective stewardship of trust resources. The Budget provides \$2.9 billion to support programs serving Indian Country, including social services, public safety, infrastructure maintenance and natural resource management. The Budget also supports the BIE's efforts to foster the success of the approximately 46,000 students it serves, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) efforts to address violence in Indian Country, including the disproportionately high numbers of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Streamlines Reviews and Permitting. DOI is responsible for administering foundational environmental and historic preservation laws nationwide and for managing more than 20 percent of the Nation's lands, which affects the American public and many private stakeholders. The Budget supports DOI in fulfilling these important permitting and review responsibilities in a timely and thorough manner. As an example, the Budget maintains core funding for FWS to conduct Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) consultations, which help facilitate development of infrastructure projects while ensuring threatened and endangered species receive the protections intended by the ESA. The Budget also maintains the BLM's ability to efficiently facilitate and administer development of energy transmission projects.

Eliminates Unnecessary, Lower Priority, or Duplicative Programs. The Budget includes elimination of discretionary Abandoned Mine Land economic development grants that overlap with existing mandatory reclamation grants and National Heritage Areas that are more appropriately funded locally. The Budget also eliminates the Indian Guaranteed Loan Program funding that largely duplicates other existing loan programs serving Indian Country, and National Wildlife Refuge Fund payments to local governments that fail to take into account the economic benefits that refuges provide to neighboring communities. The Budget also proposes to eliminate components of the BIA's Welfare Assistance Program, a supplementary program that largely duplicates other Federal and State programs that serve Indian Country.

"Last year,...[Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services] officers successfully stopped thousands of pounds of deadly narcotics from reaching our tribal communities. I applaud the multi-department effort that has led to these drug seizures as it supports the Trump Administration's commitment to protecting its citizens and getting these drugs off the streets."

David Bernhardt
Secretary
June 24, 2019

Reduces Funding for Land Acquisition. The Budget continues to focus on using resources to manage existing lands and assets managed by DOI. The Budget provides \$23 million (including balance cancellations) to handle ongoing projects, along with small projects to provide or expand access to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. This proposed level is significantly lower than the 2020 enacted level and would allow DOI to focus resources on supporting activities in existing national parks, refuges, and public lands, which encompass nearly 500 million acres.

Invests in Water Resources and Infrastructure. The Budget invests in the safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources throughout the United States. The Budget requests \$1.1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, with an emphasis on operating, maintaining, and rehabilitating existing water resources in-

frastructure throughout the western United States. Through the Bureau of Reclamation and BIA, the Budget requests a total of \$156 million in discretionary funding to implement enacted Indian water rights settlements in support of Federal trust responsibilities to Tribes. The Budget also invests a total of \$200 million at the USGS and the Bureau of Reclamation for science to sustain and enhance ground and surface water quality and quantity, and to develop new technologies to respond to the water resources challenges facing the Nation.